

This newsletter presents findings from Quarter 2, 2014 evaluation of the Planning Retreat and Mid-year Participant Evaluation.

### 2014 PIRE Planning Retreat



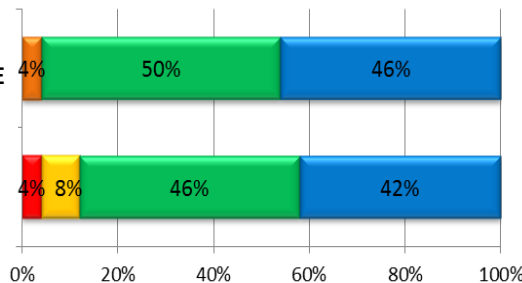
The 2014 UCI Water PIRE **Planning Retreat** was held on Saturday, January 25, 2014 from 9:00 am – 8:30 pm in the UCI Civil and Environmental Engineering Conference Room. Participants rated the usefulness of the retreat and provided suggestions.

### Usefulness of the Planning Retreat

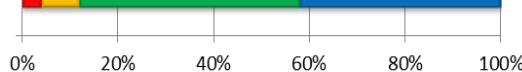
- ◆ 24 of 28 retreat attendees completed the evaluation form
- ◆ More than half of respondents are affiliated with UCI
- ◆ Attendees found the retreat as a whole to be *very or extremely useful*.

■ Not useful at all   ■ Slightly useful   ■ Somewhat useful   ■ Very useful   ■ Extremely useful

How useful was the retreat to increase your knowledge about PIRE project activities?



How useful was the retreat to plan and organize PIRE project activities?



### PROJECT GOALS

- Goal 1: Knowledge/Research/Discovery
- Goal 2: Education/Workforce Development
- Goal 3: Partnerships
- Goal 4: Institutional Capacity

### PIRE Project Next Steps

- ◆ Finding collaborators or collaborative projects to work on
- ◆ Curriculum planning and planning the undergraduate UPP Down Under program
- ◆ Project management and advancement
- ◆ Outreach components
- ◆ Continuing research and publication efforts



### Participants' Suggestions to Improve Future Retreats

Presenters/Attendees	Topics	Issues to discuss	Improvements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Orange County Water District</li> <li>◆ Former PIRE students</li> <li>◆ Graduate students</li> <li>◆ Industrial partners</li> <li>◆ Local practitioners</li> <li>◆ Southern California Coastal Water Research Project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Southern California and Australia approaches</li> <li>◆ Storm water reuse</li> <li>◆ Collaboration opportunities</li> <li>◆ Data gathering challenges</li> <li>◆ Effect of bio-remediation on salinity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ How to involve water districts</li> <li>◆ Implementation of PIRE research findings</li> <li>◆ UPP Down Under planning</li> <li>◆ Inclusion of more organizations</li> <li>◆ Survey student environmental attitudes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Plan further in advance</li> <li>◆ Name tags</li> <li>◆ Multiple days or more breaks</li> <li>◆ Larger or different venue</li> <li>◆ Note action items and people responsible, distribute action plan</li> </ul>

*"I really appreciate being invited and meeting with other people with common goals, interests and passion. I wish to come back again."*

*"Thanks for putting this together, it was a really good way to see all the parts of PIRE at once and get some discussion about the future."*

## UCI WaterPIRE Mid-Year Evaluation

The **mid-year evaluation** assessed project participants' satisfaction with project implementation and their professional growth due to participation. About 58% (47 of 81) of the participants completed the survey.

### Involvement in PIRE project

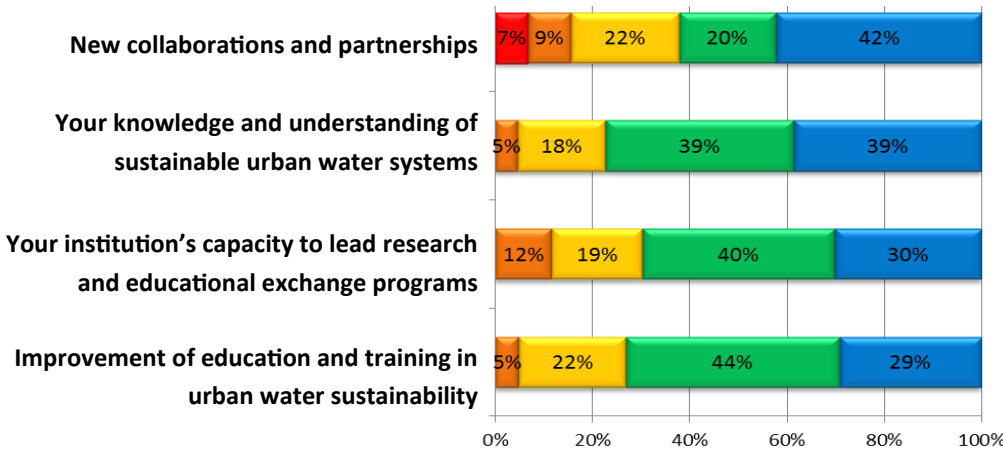
- 21 people report feeling sufficiently involved in the PIRE project.
- Others want additional involvement :
- Develop university partnerships
- Conduct collaborative research
- Develop governmental agency collaborations



### Progress made towards goals

- ♦ Many believe the project is making *good or great* gains in all goal areas.
- ♦ More than 20% of respondents noted only *a little or moderate* gains, indicating room for improvement.

■ None    ■ A little    ■ Moderate    ■ Good    ■ Great



## Project Management

Participants rated all areas of project management as *good*.



### Benefits of PIRE Project participation

- ♦ Improved knowledge about content and projects regarding water sustainability.
- ♦ Interaction with academic and industry professionals.
- ♦ Collaboration and research opportunities.
- ♦ Helpful experience for graduate school applications.



### Evaluator's Recommendations

#### 2014 Planning Retreat

- ♦ Plan further in advance
- ♦ Invite more participants from various institutions to attend.
- ♦ Include presenters and topics suggested by participants.
- ♦ Use participants' next steps to inform planning of subsequent meetings.
- ♦ Reorganize retreat agenda to include more breaks.

#### Mid-Year Evaluation

- ♦ Create more opportunities to collaborate with university partners, to develop additional university partnerships, conduct collaborative research, and to further develop institutional capacity.
- ♦ To improve project management, hold additional planning sessions.
- ♦ Develop forums where project participants can continue to cultivate skills.

### Upcoming Evaluation Activities

- Conduct post-survey of all participants
- Conduct post-IDI on graduate students returning from Australia.
- Conduct research abroad evaluation form with graduate students returning from Australia.
- Conduct pre-IDI on undergraduate/graduate/postdocs going to Australia.
- Plan summer undergraduate and K-12 teacher/student program evaluations.